GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER TO VISIT LITHUANIA

VILNIUS, Aug 02, BNS - German Defense Minister Volker Ruhe will pay a two-day visit to Lithuania starting Aug. 21 to assess the fulfillment of bilateral military cooperation programs and to discuss new ones, the Lithuanian Defense Ministry said Wednesday. The visit is a followup to last September's, agreement between Lithuania and Germany on military cooperation. Lithuania's defense forces have received considerable material and consultative aid from Germany. In addition, more than 10 Lithuanian army officers have studied or continue studies in German military academies. Germany intends to invite another Lithuanian 20 officers for studies next year.

CHEATED LITHUANIAN COURT SENTENCES INNOCENT WOMAN

VILNIUS, Aug 3, BNS - An innocent Lithuanian woman was sentenced to two and a half years in prison after the real suspect presented her neighbor's name instead of her own, the daily Lietuvos Rytas said on Thursday. The suspect, detained by police for theft, did not have identity papers but instead gave the name of her neighbor as her own. The Kaunas district court and investigators were satisfied with the certification by a passport office, saying that a person bearing such a name really existed.

The innocent neighbor only learned about her sentence after she was summoned by police. As the deception came to light, the sentence was revoked and the case sent back for investigation. The court also passed a decision to notify law enforcement institutions that defendants' identity must be determined only on the basis of their passports.

LITHUANIAN POET DIES AFTER FALLING FROM BALLOON

VILNIUS, Jul 31, BNS - A well-known Lithuanian poet and editor of two cultural magazines was killed Saturday in a mishap that marred a balloon show in Vilnius. Vaidotas Daunys, 37, was preparing for a flight in a hot-air balloon when it suddenly lifted off with the poet hanging outside the

basket. As the Pepsi-can-shaped balloon ascended, Daunys made several attempts to climb inside the basket but then suddenly fell down in the presence of several thousand people. Another man was in the basket during the ill-fated flight but failed to pull Daunys inside. The show was stopped after the accident.